

IN THE CLAIMS

1-31. (Canceled)

32. (Previously presented) A method of testing a compound for biological activity, which method comprises:

- (i) providing cells expressing a CD94/NKG2 receptor, wherein the NKG2 member is selected from the group consisting of NKG2A, NKG2B, NKG2C, NKG2D, NKG2E, and NKG2F at the cell surface;
- (ii) contacting the cells with HLA-E in the presence of the test compound;
and
- (iii) determining whether the presence of the compound affects the binding of HLA-E to the cells.

33. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 32, wherein the CD94/NKG2 receptor is an inhibitory NK cell receptor.

34. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 32, wherein the CD94/NKG2 receptor is a stimulatory NK cell receptor.

35. (Canceled)

36. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 33, wherein the inhibitory CD94/NKG2 receptor is a CD94/NKG2A receptor.

37. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 32, wherein the stimulatory CD94/NKG2 receptor is a CD94/NKG2C receptor.

38-41. (Canceled)

42. (Withdrawn) Compounds identified by the method according to claim 32, as affecting the binding of HLA-E to CD94/NKG2 receptors as used in medical diagnostic procedures, wherein the compounds are antibodies.

43. (Withdrawn) Compounds identified by the method according to claim 32, as affecting the binding of HLA-E to CD94/NKG2 receptors, wherein the compounds are antibodies.

44. (Withdrawn) Compounds identified by the method according to claim 32, as affecting the binding of HLA-E to CD94/NKG2 receptors, wherein the compounds are monoclonal antibodies.

45. (Withdrawn) Compounds identified by the method according to claim 32, as affecting the binding of HLA-E to CD94/NKG2 receptors, wherein the compounds are one of the group of anti-HLA-E antibodies, anti-CD94 antibodies, and anti-NKG2 antibodies.

46. (Currently amended) A method of identifying compounds affecting the binding of HLA-E to CD94/NKG2 receptors, which method comprises:

- (i) providing cells expressing a CD94/NKG2 receptor at the cell surface, wherein the NKG2 member is selected from a group consisting of NKG2A, NKG2B, NKG2C, NKG2E, and NKG2F ~~and any alternative NKG2 spliced form of the aforementioned group members;~~
- (ii) contacting the cells with HLA-E in the presence of a test compound; and
- (iii) determining whether the presence of the compound affects the binding of HLA-E to the cells.

47. (Previously presented) The method of claim 46, further comprising using the identified compounds in medical diagnostic procedures.

48. (Canceled)

49. (Currently amended) ~~the~~ The method of claim 32, further comprising using compounds that have been determined to affect the binding of HLA-E to the cells in medical diagnostic procedures.

50. (New) A method for producing an identified compound having characteristics of affecting the binding of HLA-E to CD94/NKG2 receptors, which method comprises:

- (i) selecting a test compound for screening;
- (ii) providing cells expressing a CD94/NKG2 receptor at the cell surface, wherein the NKG2 member is selected from a group consisting of NKG2A, NKG2B, NKG2C, NKG2E, and NKG2F;
- (iii) contacting the cells with HLA-E in the presence of the test compound; and
- (iv) determining whether the presence of the test compound affects the binding of HLA-E to the cells.

51. (New) The method according to claim 32, wherein the CD94/NKG2 receptor is a CD94/NKG2B receptor.

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52. (New) The method according to claim 32, wherein the CD94/NKG2 receptor is a CD94/NKG2E receptor.

53. (New) The method according to claim 32, wherein the CD94/NKG2 receptor is a CD94/NKG2F receptor.